

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 12567 280338Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01
MCT-01 /077 W
-----019831 280349Z /61

R 271135Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5211
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 12567
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: BENAZIR BHUTTO'S HOUSE ARREST EXTENDED

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 12337 (B) ISLAMABAD 12306

1. THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION (MLA) HAS EXTENDED THE PERIOD OF BENAZIR BHUTTO'S HOUSE ARREST UNTIL JANUARY 10, 1978. THIS MOVE IS CLEARLY INTENDED TO KEEP THE FORMER PM'S DAUGHTER, AN EFFECTIVE ORATOR AND PEPPERY DEFENDER OF HER FATHER, OFF THE PODIUM AND OUT OF THE STREETS UNTIL AFTER THE "DEMOCRACY DAY" ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED BY THE PAKISTAN PEOPLE'S PARTY FOR JANUARY 5.

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2. THE COUNTRY HAS REMAINED GENERALLY CALM AND FREE FROM VIOLENCE, EVEN DURING LAST WEEK'S MUHARRAM FESTIVITIES. SMALL-SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE AND BEEN DISPERSED PEACEFULLY IN SEVERAL CITIES. TYPICAL IS A PRO-PPP WOMEN'S PROCESSION TAKEN OUT IN LAHORE ON DECEMBER 26. THE WOMEN QUICKLY DISPERSED WHEN CONFRONTED BY POLICE,

ALTHOUGH PAKISTAN RADIO REPORTS TODAY THAT SOME OF THE DEMONSTRATORS MAY BE CHARGED AND ARRESTED. SHOWING BOTH A CARROT AND A STICK APPROACH TO PUBLIC ORDER, THE MLA DECEMBER 26 RELEASED 30 PPP WORKERS WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN PINDI LAST WEEK IN CONNECTION WITH A PRO-BHUTTO DEMONSTRATION.

3. BEGUM BHUTTO, THE FORMER PM'S WIFE, IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN A SPEAKING TOUR OF THE NORTHWEST FRONTIER ON DECEMBER 28. HER APPEARANCE AND SPEECHES MAY PROVIDE THE MLA WITH AN OPPORTUNITY--IN THE INTERESTS OF "PUBLIC SAFETY" AND "PUBLIC ORDER"--TO TAKE THE BEGUM INTO CUSTODY BEFORE JANUARY 5.

HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HOUSE ARREST
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ISLAMA12567
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770482-0875
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771216/aaaaancr.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b8600efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ISLAMABAD 12337, 77 ISLAMABAD 12306
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 128485
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BENAZIR BHUTTO'S HOUSE ARREST EXTENDED
TAGS: PINT, PK, (BHUTTO, BENAZIR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b8600efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009